

a.) REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants elect for prosecution one of the inventions (Groups I-VII) noted on pages 2-5 of the Office Action.<sup>1</sup>

In response, Applicants hereby elect Group IV, namely claims 1-4, 7-14, 16-18, 24-27, 30-35 and 38-43 (in-part), drawn to products of formulae (I), (IA) or (IB) wherein R<sup>1</sup> is unsubstituted or substituted 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing at least one oxygen atom; R<sup>2</sup> is -COR<sup>8</sup>; R<sup>8</sup> is unsubstituted or substituted alicyclic heterocyclic group; one of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is COR<sup>12</sup> and the other is hydrogen or unsubstituted or substituted alkyl; and R<sup>12</sup> is unsubstituted or substituted aromatic heterocyclic group.

In this regard, because R<sup>12</sup> is aromatic heterocyclic group according to the Examiner's groupings, Applicants respectfully submit many closely related compounds (for example, compounds 456-498, 523-585, 609-611, 618-621 and 625-628 found at specification pages 125-144) are not included in Group IV.<sup>2</sup> Applicants respectfully request that R<sup>12</sup> therefore be expanded to additionally encompass such compounds by including nonaromatic and nonheterocyclic groups for R<sup>12</sup>.

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

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<sup>1</sup> The Examiner also states the list (Groups I-VII) is not exhaustive and Applicant may choose to elect an embodiment not listed.

<sup>2</sup> For instance, in compounds 456, 495-498, 523-525, etc. R<sup>12</sup> is not aromatic, and in compounds 457-494, etc. R<sup>12</sup> is not heterocyclic.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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